

***SECURIGERA CRETICA* (FABACEAE), NEW TO THE TEXAS FLORA
AND SECOND RECORD FOR NORTH AMERICA**

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ABSTRACT

Securigera cretica is documented as naturalized in Texas. A small population was found in Government Canyon State Natural Area in Bexar County, Texas, in a relatively undisturbed live oak woodland. Vouchers for records of *S. varia* in the USA probably should be reexamined toward the possibility that some may instead be *S. cretica*.

KEY WORDS: *Securigera*, *Securigera cretica*, Fabaceae, Texas, naturalized

A small naturalized population of *Securigera cretica* (L.) Lassen has been discovered in Government Canyon State Natural Area in Bexar County, Texas. The species has not previously been reported in the state and is only the second record from North America (Correll & Johnston 1970; Hatch et al. 1990; Jones et al. 1997; BONAP 2011; Turner et al. 2003; USDA, NRCS 2013).

Voucher: Texas. Bexar Co., Government Canyon State Natural Area, shrubby woodland under shade of *Quercus fusiformis* at 16.5-m point along transect of Fire Monitoring Handbook (FMH) Plot 5214, UTM NAD 83 Zone 14, 523733.6 E, 3268329.3 N, 9 Apr 2013, *Keith 1034* (TEX).

The Texas population of *Securigera cretica*, a small clump of approximately twenty plants, was found growing along a Fire Monitoring Handbook (FMH) vegetation monitoring plot in a relatively undisturbed woodland in the shade of *Quercus fusiformis* Small (USDI 2003). It is unknown and interesting how this non-native species found its way to a relatively undisturbed woodland in the center of Texas. It is probable, but speculative, that the species is more common in Texas and North America than is currently known. In Texas, it most resembles *S. varia* but can be distinguished by its annual duration, fewer leaflets, smaller heads and flowers, and decumbent-ascending stems rather than the perennial duration and generally more decumbent to procumbent and flexuous stems of *S. varia*. The contrast below is derived mostly from Tutin et al. (1968) in *Flora Europaea*.

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Annual; leaflets 3–8 pairs; heads 3–6(–9)-flowered; corollas 4–7 mm | Securigera cretica |
| 1. Perennial; leaflets (5–)7–12 pairs; heads 5(–10)–20-flowered; corollas (8–)10–15 mm
..... | Securigera varia |

Good photos of both species can be found at Flora of Israel Online (2013) and through a Google Images search (use *Coronilla*).

Securigera cretica is native to central and southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean Region including Crete, from where the species was described (Tutin et al. 1968). It has previously been reported from only one other location in North America, Maryland (BONAP 2011; USDA, NRCS 2013), where it was collected in 1954 on chrome ore piles in Canton (Reed 1964).

Lassen (1989) combined eleven species into *Securigera* from the previously described genera *Coronilla* L. and *Artrolobium* Desv., increasing the number of species in the genus to twelve. All twelve of these species are native to the Old World (Tutin et al. 1968; Lassen 1989). Four of these twelve species have been reported in the USA as naturalized or waifs, including *Securigera cretica*, *S. globosa* (Lam.) Lassen, *S. securidaca* (L.) O. Deg. & Dorf., and *S. varia* (L.) Lassen (BONAP 2011; USDA, NRCS 2013). Isely (1998) had recognized only *S. varia* as naturalized and *S. securidaca* as a waif.

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